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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

28 SEPTEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – LA County DA to Dismiss 60,000 Past Marijuana Convictions

(U) The nation's largest prosecutor's office is moving to dismiss roughly 60,000 marijuana convictions, LA County DA George Gascón announced yesterday. About 20,000 of the convictions expected to be expunged under Gascón's order were for felony possession or cultivation of marijuana, said Jean Guccione, a spokeswoman for the LA County district attorney's office. The remainder were misdemeanors filed in jurisdictions that do not have their own city attorney's offices, she said. It was unclear how far back the case review went, but while in San Francisco, Gascón had sought to overturn cases dating to the mid-1970s.

SOURCE: 28 September 2021, Los Angeles Times

(U) Redding – Suspected Gun Thief May Have Worn Stolen CalFIRE Uniform

(U) The Shasta County Sheriff's Office says it's looking for a theft suspect who was caught on camera wearing a Cal Fire uniform that they may have also stolen. The sheriff's office says the suspect is believed to have taken firearms and jewelry from a vehicle parked on Bailey Road north of Redding sometime between 3 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Authorities say the suspect may also be the same person who broke into a Cal Fire vehicle days earlier in the Redding area. A Cal Fire uniform was stolen from the vehicle during the break-in, according to the sheriff's office.

SOURCE: 27 September 2021, KCRA News

(U) Sacramento – All California Prison Guards, Staff Must Get COVID-19 Vaccine

(U) A federal judge yesterday ordered that all correctional officers and staff entering California's prisons be vaccinated. The judge sided with a federal court-appointed receiver overseeing the medical care there and rejected efforts to block it by Gov. Gavin Newsom and the prison guard's union. US District Judge Jon Tigar's order covers all 34 of California's prisons and does allow for religious and medical exemptions to be sought by the employees.

SOURCE: 27 September 2021, Los Angeles Times

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Homicides Increase 30% in 2020, Largest One-Year Increase Ever

(U) Washington – Homicides in the US in 2020 increased nearly 30% over the previous year, the largest one-year jump since the FBI began keeping records, according to figures released yesterday by the agency. Homicides and non-negligent manslaughters climbed an estimated 29.4% to 21,570, an increase of 4,901 over 2019, FBI data showed. It is the highest estimated total since the early 1990s, when homicides stayed above 23,000 a year as drug wars played out in many places in the United States. Violent crimes in 2020 increased 5.6% over the previous year.

SOURCE: 28 September 2021, Fox News

(U) Florida – Social Media Companies Not Liable for Pulse Nightclub Shooting, Court Rules

(U) Orlando – The 11th Circuit on Monday rejected an appeal from victims of the Pulse nightclub

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massacre who were looking to hold YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter liable for hosting terrorist propaganda that purportedly contributed to the killer's radicalization. A three-judge panel for the appeals court ruled that the Anti-Terrorism Act — the federal law under which the victims were suing — provides no relief because the 2016 Orlando club shooting did not amount to "international terrorism." SOURCE: 28 September 2021, Courthouse News

(U) Tennessee – Suspect in Kroger Shooting Was Asked to Leave His Job on Day of Shooting

(U) Collierville – Uk Thang, 29, was identified as the suspected shooter in Thursday's mass shooting at a Kroger on New Byhalia Road in Collierville, a suburb about 30 miles east of downtown Memphis, according to city police Chief Dale Lane. He died from what authorities said they believed was a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The third-party vendor who shot 15 people, one fatally, at a Tennessee supermarket before killing himself was asked to leave his job before the gunfire erupted, authorities said Monday in a statement.

SOURCE: 27 September 2021, NBC News

(U) Texas - DEA Warns Fake Prescription Pills with Fentanyl and Meth Sold Online

(U) Waco – The Drug Enforcement Administration yesterday issued a public safety alert, its first in six years, warning Americans of an alarming increase in the lethality and availability of fake prescription pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine. "The United States is facing an unprecedented crisis of overdose deaths fueled by illegally manufactured fentanyl and methamphetamine," said Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Anne Milgram. The federal agency said it wants to raise public awareness of a "significant nationwide surge in counterfeit pills that are mass-produced by criminal drug networks in labs and deceptively marketed as legitimate prescription pills." SOURCE: 27 September 2021, KWTX News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mali - Mali Seeking 'Better Ways' to Contain Terrorism

(U) Bamako – Mali's interim government appears ready to cast aside long-standing counterterrorism partnerships with the United States and France, saying that both countries have failed to make Mali any safer. But at the same time, Mali's prime minister says reports of a deal to bring in mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group are just "rumors and allegations." Reports of a deal between Mali's interim government and Russia's Wagner Group first emerged earlier this month, with Reuters reporting that Mali would pay \$10.8 million a month to bring in about 1,000 mercenaries to train Mali's military and provide security for senior officials.

SOURCE: 28 September 2021, VOA News

(U) Yemen – Fighting in City Kills 130 Fighters

(U) Sanaa – Two days of fierce clashes between Yemeni government forces and the country's Houthi rebels over a crucial central city have killed more than 130 fighters, mostly rebels, officials said today. The escalation of fighting over the energy-rich city of Marib comes as President Joe Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan travelled to Saudi Arabia to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as Washington presses for a cease-fire in the years long Yemen's war.

SOURCE: 27 September 2021, ABC News

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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